

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03344 030925Z

17

ACTION EA-14

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----- 125914

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3305

UNCLAS CANBERRA 3344

SAIPAN FOR SLO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, TQ, PFOR, AS

SUBJ: TTPI REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION -- POLITICAL
EDUCATION MATERIALS AND LAND LAW

REF: A) STATE 078782

B) STATE 111022

1. DESPITE PERSISTENT REMINDERS, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS BEEN UNABLE TO PROVIDE POLITICAL EDUCATION MATERIALS REQUESTED REF A. THEY INFORM THAT SUCH MATERIALS WERE TRANSFERRED TO PORT MORESBY WHEN DEPT OF EXTERNAL TERRITORIES WAS DISSOLVED DEC 1, 1973. THEIR REQUESTS FOR THESE MATERIALS FROM PORT MORESBY HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNAVAILABLE.

2. EMBASSY RECOLLECTION IS THAT HOST OF MATERIAL ON POLITICAL EDUCATION WAS PROVIDED IN LATE 1970 TO YOU AT REQUEST OF THEN POLITICAL ADVISOR DORRANCE. WHILE IT IS NOT KNOWN HOW MUCH THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE MATERIALS HAS CHANGED, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO LOOK AT MATERIALS ALREADY PROVIDED IN 1970 FOR ANSWERS TO SOME OF THE QUESTIONS POSED IN REF A.

3. WITH REGARD TO LAND LAW IN AUSTRALIA, IT IS EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS ON EITHER PURCHASE OR LEASE OF LAND IN AUSTRALIA BY FOREIGNERS.

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PAGE 02 CANBER 03344 030925Z

RESTRICTIONS ON PURCHASE AND/OR USE OF LAND APPEAR TO BE

ONES OF POLICY RATHER THAN LAW. CURRENT GOA, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS INDICATED IT WILL RESTRICT COMMERCIAL PURCHASES BY FOREIGN REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS OF LOCAL LAND BY REFUSING FOREIGN EXCHANGE ACCOMMODATION. THIS IS CARRIED OUT AS POLICY OBJECTIVE, HOWEVER, AS LAW DOES NOT PROHIBIT SUCH PURCHASES. IN THIS REGARD, WE CAN OF COURSE QUERY AMCONSULS IN VARIOUS STATE CAPITALS WITH REGARD TO INDIVIDUAL STATES' LAND LEGISLATION. IF YOU WISH THIS TO BE DONE, PLEASE INFORM.

4. THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING NEW LAND LEGISLATION FOR DEBATE IN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY SESSION BEGINNING JUNE 24. COPIES OF THIS PROPOSED LEGISLATION ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT PRESENT. LEAKS TO NEWSPAPERS, HOWEVER, SUGGEST THAT PNG GOVERNMENT WILL WISH TO ACQUIRE AUTHORITY UNDER NEW LEGISLATION TO "BUY BACK" PROPERTY OWNED BY AUSTRALIAN EXPATRIATES FOR RETURN TO USE BY LOCAL TRIBES. CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER OF SUCH LAND BACK TO NATIVE ENTITIES HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLICIZED. WE WILL KEEP YOUR INTEREST IN MIND AND PROVIDE YOU WITH COPIES OF LAND BILLS IF YOU SO DESIRE. PLEASE INFORM.

5. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED NAURU REPRESENTATIVE IN MELBOURNE FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED PARA 1, REF B. HE HAS NOT AS YET RESPONDED.
GREEN

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